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Fashion: How to Wear the Veil

Lola Haskins

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Two Poems · *Lola Haskins*

COOKERY: TO TRUSS SMALL BIRDS

Thread wheatears, ruffs, or quail
on a long skewer, three or four together.
Pass the skewer through the wingtip,
through the body of each bird
and out to the next. Secure with string.

See the little birds on their burning branch.
Their song sizzles from their beaks.
Their wings are tied.
How they would fly otherwise, on this ecstatic wind!

FASHION: HOW TO WEAR THE VEIL

With black jet stars artfully set
above a bare chin.
This is the way of the flirt.

With the veil caught behind
to hang unhampered to the wearer's waist.
This is the way of the free American,
of the summer girl.

And then there is the nun,
who goes differently veiled, morning and afternoon.

This is the way of the truly passionate.
The way of the woman
who stands in the wind at the needle's shiny point,
her face covered, who does not look down.